

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 04250 021208Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /080 W
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P R 021121Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6006
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 4250

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SU, SO, EG, XF
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI VISITS JIDDA, TELEPHONES CAIRO

1. NIMEIRI FLEW TO JIDDA TO CONFER WITH SAUDI ARABIAN KING KHALID ON MORNING DECEMBER 1 AND RETURNED KHARTOUM SAME AFTERNOON. RADIO AND PRESS REPORTS SAID TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS AND "THEIR POINTS OF VIEW WERE IDENTICAL" REGARDING CONSOLIDATION OF ARAB UNITY. NIMEIRI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY BAHA AL-DIN IDRIS AND PRESS SECRETARY.

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 04250 021208Z

2. NIMEIRI TELEPHONED EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURNING TO KHARTOUM, ACCORDING PRESS, WHICH SAID TELEPHONE CONVERSATION CONFIRMED SADAT'S INTENTION VISIT KHARTOUM NEXT WEEK. SADAT AND NIMEIRI ALSO "EVALUATED SUDAN-EGYPT JOINT ACTION IN ARAB AND AFRICAN SPHERES" WHICH AIMS AT CONSOLIDATING ARAB UNITY ON ONE HAND AND ARAB-AFRICAN UNITY ON OTHER.

3. WHILE IN JIDDA, NIMEIRI HAD PRIVATE BUT PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE WHO HAD SPENT FOUR HOURS IN KHARTOUM NOV 29 WHILE EN ROUTE SAUDI ARABIA.

4. COMMENT: NIMEIRI'S APPARENT SUDDEN DECISION FLY TO JIDDA (WE UNDERSTAND ON ONE OF ADNAN KHASHOGGI'S PRIVATE AIRPLANES) CAUGHT KHARTOUM BY SURPRISE, ALTHOUGH VISIT WAS REPORTED BY LOCAL MEDIA AS SOON AS HE HAD LEFT. PRESW FOCUSES ON INTRA-ARAB ISSUES AND PRINCIPAL SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION MAY WELL HAVE BEEN OVERALL ARAB STANCE FOLLOWING RECENT SADAT INITIATIVES. BASED ON WHAT NIMEIRI SAID DURING OUR RECENT MEETINGS WITH HIM, WE BELIEVE HE SOUGHT STRONGER SAUDI SUPPORT FOR SADAT. INTERESTINGLY, HILTON HOTEL SOURCES HAVE TOLD US EGYPTIAN SECURITY MEN HAVE BEEN HERE CHECKING OUT HOTEL WHICH SUGGESTS SADAT MAY INDEED BE COMING NEXT WEEK. IN ADDITION ARAB ISSUES, NIMEIRI PROBABLY DISCUSSED HORN WITH SAUDIS AS WELL AS WITH SIAD BARRE, AND WE ALSO THINK IT LIKELY SAUDI ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUDAN WERE DISCUSSED.

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